

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 01035 101329Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 IO-13 SCA-01 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /074 W
-----102029Z 105368 /46

R 101253Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3281

CONFIDENTIAL BEIRUT 1035

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, LE, SREF
SUBJECT: PROPOSED RESETTLEMENT OF ASSYRIAN REFUGEES IN LEBANON

REF: (A) STATE 050984, (B) BEIRUT 0938

1. WHILE WE UNDERSTAND DEPARTMENT'S HUMANITARIAN INTEREST IN PROBLEM OF ASSYRIAN REFUGEES, WE REMAIN CONCERNED THAT YONAN'S APPROACH MAY CREATE MORE PROBLEMS THAN IT WILL SOLVE. AS INDICATED IN BEIRUT REFTEL, IT IS HARD TO IMAGINE GOL BEING WILLING TO ACCEPT EVEN 1000 ADDITIONAL REFUGEES GIVEN THE PROBLEMS IT NOW FACES IN THIS FIELD. WE ARE ALSO SKEPTICAL OF MARONITE COMMUNITY'S WILLINGNESS TO DONATE ITS OWN MONEY AND LAND FOR THIS SCHEME. IN RECENT CONVERSATION WITH DCM. DORY CHAMOUN ACKNOWLEDGED MEETING WITH MR. YONAN AND SAID THAT HE AND YONAN HAD "EXCHANGED SENTIMENTS" BUT HIS TONE SUGGESTED HE DID NOT TAKE YONAN VERY SERIOUSLY. HE DID NOT REPEAT NOT INDICATE THAT CHRISTIAN LEADERS WERE PREPARED TO SPEND ANY MONEY ON THIS PROJECT.

2. YONAN'S DISCUSSION OF THIS SUBJECT WITH MARONITE COMMUNITY LEADERS AS THOUGH THEY HAD OFFICIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ADMITTING ALIENS TO LEBANON IS EXACTLY THE KIND OF THING THAT FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTROS HAS ASKED US TO AVOID. REGARDLESS OF ATTITUDE OF CONFIDENTIAL

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YONAN OR HUMANITARIANS OF ANY NATIONALITY WHO MAY WISH TO FINANCE A RESETTLEMENT EFFORT FOR ASSYRIANS IN LEBANON, IT IS THE OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON, REPRESENTED BY PRESIDENT SARKIS AND FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTROS, AND NOT THE MARONITE COMMUNITY LEADERS, WHO SHOULD DETERMINE WHO IS TO BE ADMITTED TO THIS COUNTRY. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THIS POINT SHOULD BE MADE

AS CLEARLY AS POSSIBLE TO YONAN AND THAT HE SHOULD BE
URGED TO DISCUSS HIS PROPOSAL WITH LEGALLY-CONSTITUTED
LEBANESE AUTHORITIES (PERHAPS, FOR EXAMPLE, WITH
LEBANESE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON) BEFORE HE STARTS
AROUSING EXPECTATIONS AND SOLICITING MONEY.

PARKER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770375/aaaacnth.tel
Line Count: 68
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ebb9d1ba-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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SAS ID: 3155100
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